

**Supporting Statement for the
Registration of Mortgage Loan Originators
(Reg H-8; OMB No. 7100-to be assigned)**

Summary

The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, under delegated authority from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), proposes to implement the Registration of Mortgage Loan Originators (Reg H-8; OMB No. 7100-to be assigned). The Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) classifies reporting, recordkeeping, or disclosure requirements of a regulation as an “information collection.”¹

On June 9, 2009, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC), the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (Federal Reserve), the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), the Office of Thrift Supervision (OTS), the Farm Credit Bureau (FCA) and the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) (the agencies) issued the joint proposed rule titled Registration of Mortgage Loan Originators (74 FR 27386). This rule proposes to amend Regulation H to implement the Secure and Fair Enforcement for Mortgage Licensing Act (the S.A.F.E. Act), enacted July 30, 2008. Along with the rule, the agencies proposed the information collection referred to above.

The proposed rule requires employees of state member banks, certain subsidiaries of state member banks, branches and agencies of foreign banks, and certain commercial lending companies who act as residential mortgage loan originators (MLOs) to register with the Nationwide Mortgage Licensing System and Registry, obtain a unique identifier, maintain this registration, and disclose to consumers the unique identifier. The rule also requires the institutions employing these MLOs to adopt and follow written policies and procedures to ensure their employees comply with these requirements and to disclose the unique identifiers of their MLOs. The Federal Reserve’s total annual burden for this information collection is estimated to be 933,957 hours.

Background and Justification

The S.A.F.E. Act mandates a nationwide licensing or registration system for MLOs. The Act requires that the agencies develop and maintain a federal registration system for those MLOs employed by agency-regulated institutions. The Act provides that the objectives of the registry are to aggregate and improve the flow of information to and between regulators, provide increased accountability and tracking of MLOs, enhance consumer protections, reduce fraud in the residential mortgage loan origination process, and provide consumers with easily accessible information at no charge regarding the employment history of, and publicly adjudicated disciplinary and enforcement actions against MLOs. There are no other information collections that require these reporting, recordkeeping, and disclosure requirements for agency-regulated institutions.

¹ 44 U.S.C. § 3501 *et seq.*

Description of Information Collection

The rule requires MLOs to register, obtain a unique identifier, and maintain their registration. The rule also requires depository institutions regulated by the agencies to ensure compliance of MLOs employed by their institution, including establishing written policies and procedures. These requirements are described in Sections 103 (a),(d),(e), 104, and 105 of the final rule. Details of the requirements for each section are provided below.

Mortgage Loan Originators (Sections 103(a), (d) and 105). Unless the de minimis exception or a different implementation period applies, Section 103(a) would require an employee of a depository institution who engages in the business of MLO to register with the Registry, maintain such registration, and obtain a unique identifier. Section 103(d) describes the categories of information that an employee, or the employing depository institution on the employee's behalf, must submit to the Registry, with the employee's attestation as to the correctness of the information supplied, and his or her authorization to obtain further information. Section 105 would require a registered MLO to provide his or her unique identifier to a consumer upon request, before acting as a MLO, and through the originator's initial written communication with a consumer, if any.

Depository Institutions (Sections 103(e), 104, and 105). Section 103(e) specifies institution and employee information that a depository institution would submit to the Registry in connection with the initial registration of one or more MLOs and thereafter to update. Section 104 would require that an agency-regulation institution employing MLOs adopt and follow written policies and procedures, at a minimum addressing certain specified areas, but otherwise appropriate to the nature, size and complexity of their mortgage lending activities. Section 105 would require a depository institution to make the unique identifier(s) of its registered MLOs available to consumers in a manner and method practicable to the institution.

Time Schedule for Information Collection

This information collection contains reporting, recordkeeping, and disclosure requirements, as described above. Under Section 103(b), a depository institution would require each registration to be renewed annually and updated within 30 days of the occurrence of specified events. The disclosures to consumers are on occasion.

Sensitive Questions

This collection of information contains no questions of a sensitive nature, as defined by OMB guidelines.

Consultation Outside the Agency and Discussion of Public Comments

On June 9, 2009, the agencies published a notice in the *Federal Register* (74 FR 27386) requesting public comment for 60 days on the implementation of this information collection. The comment period for this notice expired on August 10, 2009. The Federal Reserve received 28 comment letters, which are currently under review.

Legal Status

The Board's Legal Division has determined that the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 (12 U.S.C. 5101 – 5116) authorize the Board to require the information collection.

Estimate of Respondent Burden

The total estimated annual burden for this information collection is 933,957 hours, as shown in the table below. The Federal Reserve estimates that there are 27,000 MLOs for Federal Reserve-regulated entities and that it will take each MLO 3.5 hours to register initially and disclose their unique identifier to consumers. The Federal Reserve also estimates that half of those MLOs will need to update their registration each year and it will take 15 minutes to provide these updates. Finally, the Federal Reserve estimates that their 2,382 regulated institutions would take 351 hours to implement policies and procedures, establish tracking and compliance systems, and establish reporting, filing, and information dissemination systems. Most of the burden will only occur during the first year of implementation. This burden represents 18 percent of the total Federal Reserve System paperwork burden.

	<i>Number of respondents</i>	<i>Estimated annual frequency</i>	<i>Estimated hours per response</i>	<i>Estimated annual burden hours</i>
MLOs – initial set up and disclosure	27,000	1	3.50	94,500
MLOs – updates for changes	13,500	1	.25	3,375
Depository Institutions	2,382	1	351	<u>836,082</u>
<i>Total</i>				<u>933,957</u>

The current annual cost to the public of this information collection is estimated to be \$73,595,812.²

² Total cost to the public was estimated using the following formula: percent of staff time, multiplied by annual burden hours, multiplied by hourly rate (10% Administrative or Junior Analyst @ \$25, 50% Managerial or Technical @ \$55, 20% Senior Management @ \$100, and 20% Legal Counsel @ \$144). Hourly rate estimates for each occupational group are averages using data from the Bureau of Labor and Statistics (BLS), Occupational Employment and Wages

Estimate of Cost to the Federal Reserve System

Federal Reserve System supervision staff would review the information as part of their normal work assignments and there would be no additional staffing costs.

2007, <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/ocwage.nr0.htm>. Occupations are defined using the BLS Occupational Classification System, <http://www.bls.gov/soc/>.